

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/805,156

Examiner

Michael J. Simitoski

Applicant(s)

HASEBE ET AL.

Art Unit

2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response of 3/21/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-28 and 43-45.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20070606.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



KAMBIZ ZAND
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. The response of 3/21/2007 was received and considered.
2. Claims 1-28 & 43-45 are pending.
3. An Examiner's amendment beings on p. 3 of this action.
4. The Examiner's reasons for allowance begin on p. 4 of this action.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas Jones on 6/4/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In CLAIM 1, LINE 7, please REPLACE "so" with the following: "wherein the date-and-time management apparatus is automatically configured to set a flag such";

In CLAIM 19, LINE 8, please REPLACE "so" with the following: "wherein the signature generation apparatus is automatically configured to set a flag such";

In CLAIM 43, LINE 8, please REPLACE "so" with the following: "wherein the user devices are automatically configured to set a flag such";

In CLAIM 45, LINE 8, please INSERT the following limitation between the words "automatically" and "without": "by setting a flag in the date-and-time management apparatus".

Allowable Subject Matter

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- a. Regarding claims 1, 3-10, 19, 21-24 & 45, **Cisco** discloses a date-and-time management apparatus/switch comprising a date-and-time setting request reception unit/switch (p. 1, ¶¶2-5) accepting a date-and-time setting request/time from any date-and-time manager/NTP server (p. 3, §Configuring the Switch as an NTP Client, specifically #2) before accepting a request from a predetermined date-and-time manager/authenticated NTP server (p. 3, §Configuring NTP Authentication), and accepting a date-and-time setting request only from the specified date-and-time manager/authenticated NTP server after accepting a date-and-time setting request from the specified date-and-time manager/authenticated NTP server (p. 3, § Configuring NTP Authentication) and a clock unit/clock (p. 1) functioning in response to the accepted date-and-time setting request (p. 1 & p. 3, §Configuring NTP Authentication, ¶1). **Menczes** teaches that a trusted time stamping service provides a user with a dated receipt by appending a timestamp to a document and signing the composite document (p. 581, §13.8.1). However, the prior art of record fails to teach or disclose, either alone or in combination, a date-and-time setting apparatus/signature generation apparatus that is automatically configured to set a flag to control access after accepting a request from a predetermined entity, as recited in combination with the other elements of the claim.
- b. Regarding claims 43-44, **Swinchart** discloses management devices/UserAgents, each including a setting request (col. 11, lines 25-35), and user devices/DeviceAgents, each including a reception unit accepting an initial setting request (col. 11, lines 56-60)

Art Unit: 2134

from any management device/UserAgent before accepting a prioritized setting request from a specified management device/UserAgent claiming ownership (owner has priority), and accepting subsequent settings requests only from the specified management device/UserAgent claiming ownership after accepting the prioritized setting request from the specified management device/UserAgent claiming ownership (col. 11, lines 44-46).

Cisco teaches a reception unit/switch receiving a setting request for date and time (p. 3, ¶1) and a clock unit/switch setting the date and the time in response to each setting request accepted by said reception unit/switch (p. 3, ¶1). This is beneficial because a network switch can be temporally synchronized regularly (p. 3, ¶1). However, the prior art of record fails to teach or disclose, either alone or in combination, a date-and-time setting apparatus/signature generation apparatus that is automatically configured to set a flag to control access after accepting a request from a predetermined entity, as recited in combination with the other elements of the claim.

c. Regarding claims 2, 11-18, 20 & 25-28, the prior art relied upon teaches systems as described above, but fails to teach or suggest accepting a date-and-time setting request only from a date-and-time manager at a higher hierarchical level than the date-and-time manager whose request has been accepted before in combination with the other elements of the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 2134

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2134

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Simitoski whose telephone number is (571) 272-3841.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 6:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m..

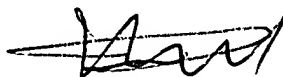
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on (571) 272-3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MJS



June 6, 2007



**KAMBIZ ZAND
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**